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THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (a) Instructions have been issued by the Board of Revenue that Commercial Tax Officers should write up the appeal orders within seven days after hearing the appeal or making enquiry in respect of appeals.

(b) One.

Dues under the well subsidy schemes

* 153 Q.—SRI S. RAMALINGAM (on behalf of Sri M. Kalyanasundaram) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government have issued instructions to Collectors for the speedy recovery of pending claims under Well Subsidy schemes by taking coercive proceedings against the concerned ryots?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The answer is in the negative, Sir.

SRI M. PALANIYANDI : கிணறு மான்யத்தை திருப்பி வசூல் செய்வதில் நமது ஜில்லாக்களிலே பல கஷ்டங்கள் இருக்கின்றன. ஏனென்றால், 1948–49-ல் கொடுத்த பணத்தையும், பிற்பாடு கொடுத்த பணத்தையும், கிணறு வெட்டவில்லை என்பதற்காகவோ, அல்லது வெட்டியிருந்தாலும் அரசாங்கம் 8 அடி, 24 அடி என்றெல்லாம் நிர்ணயித்திருந்த தாத்தில் குறைந்திருக்கிறது என்ற காரணத்திற்காகவோ, திருப்பிக் கொடுக்கவேண்டும் என்று மக்களை தொந்தரவு செய்கிறார்கள். நான் இது பற்றி கனம் அமைச்சர் அவர்களிடம்கூட சொல்லியிருக்கிறேன். இது மத்திய அரசாங்கம் கொடுத்த பணம். விவசாயிகள் மிகவும் பாடுபட்டு இந்த பணத்தை பெற்றிருக்கிறார்கள். ஆகவே, இதையெல்லாம் ஒருவழியாக தீர்த்துவிடுவதற்கு அரசாங்கம் முன்வருமா என்று அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்.

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : கனம் அங்கத்தினர் எந்த விதத்தில் இதையெல்லாம் தீர்த்துவிடவேண்டும் என்று கோருகிறார் என்பது தெரியவில்லை. ஏதாவது கிணறு வெட்டியிருந்தால் போதும். கிணற்றில் தண்ணீர் வந்தாலும் சரி; வராவிட்டாலும் சரி; அரசாங்கம் மான்யத்தை திருப்பிக் கோருவதில்லை. ஆனால் ஒன்றுமே செய்யாமல் பணத்தை 'சுவாஹா' செய்தவர்களிடமிருந்து பணத்தைத் திருப்பிப் பெறுமல் என்ன செய்வது?

Extra departmental postmasters

* 154 Q.—SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state the number of extra departmental postmasters who were permitted to hold and are holding the posts of village munsifs in the State?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : Thirty-two.

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : Whenever a person working as a village munsif applies for the appointment of postmaster, he has to get the permission of the Revenue authorities and he is appointed in the usual course. But whenever a person acting as extra departmental postmaster applies for appointment as village munsif the Revenue authorities object to the appointment of a person acting as postmaster to the post of village munsif because

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they say the Board's Standing Orders stand against such appointment. Will the Government come forward to remove such difficulties because in the former case the same individual is permitted to hold the other post also. In the latter case also Government should permit the extra departmental postmaster to hold the post of village munsif?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The only criterion for consideration is that the extra work as postmaster should not prejudice their duties as village officers. The Revenue Divisional Officer will apply his mind in according permission only to this criterion.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Sir, whatever may have been the custom or convention in the past, in view of the fact that the village officers are overburdened with revenue work, will the Hon. Minister do away with the custom of permitting village officers to be in additional charge of the work of postmasters also?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I know, Sir, the hon. Member and the village officers do not get on well. But it has been allowed if it is found that without detriment to his legitimate work as village headman, the work of postmaster also could be done. But supposing the work of a particular village branch post office itself is very heavy, they do not allow such postmasters to take up the work of village officers. Regarding grant of permission to village officers to take up the work of postmasters, the village officers are claiming so many privileges. Therefore, even the existing privilege, I think, should not be taken away

SRI K. R. VISWANATHAN : In view of the fact that the village officers are poorly paid, will the Government not deny the grant of permission to them to act as extra departmental postmasters and come forward to remove difficulties caused by the present Board's Standing Orders, which prevent extra departmental postmasters being appointed as village officers?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I have already answered that question, Sir. Government take a sympathetic view in the matter. Only in cases where it would be prejudicial to his legitimate work, they refuse permission. In all other cases they are giving permission.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Sir, this discretion vested with the Revenue Divisional Officer is not equitably or judicially exercised but very often abused. If the village officer commits defaults in the discharge of his duties, Government can take proper steps rather than refuse it in anticipation. Therefore will the Government direct the Revenue Divisional Officers to give the permission in every case and take action thereafter if they commit faults?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : The hon. Member has built up his proposition on wrong premises which I do not accept. The Revenue Divisional Officers have been exercising their discretion properly and well.

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN : Is the practice of making elementary school teachers in villages, such postmasters still continued, and if so, have they time enough to attend to these duties in addition to their regular teaching work?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : I think the subject of elementary school teachers is in the hands of the Hon. the Finance Minister.

Construction of bridge at Nileshwar

11-40 a.m. * 155 Q.—SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to question No. 1044 on 19th May 1954—

(*a*) the present stage of the construction of the bridge at Nileshwar in South Kanara district; and

(*b*) why the work has been delayed?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (*a*) Nearly 85 per cent of the work has been completed by the end of June 1956. The work is expected to be completed by 31st December 1956.

(*b*) The delay in completing the work is due to some difficulties experienced in regard to foundation during the initial stages of the work. A series of tests had to be conducted before finalising the depth of foundations and determining the settlement characteristics of the foundation soil. Further work had to be resumed only after completing all those tests.

SRI M. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Can it be expected that this work will be completed before the end of this year?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : That is what I have stated just now. It will be completed in December 1956, that is, the end of the year, I suppose.

Improvement of the Port at Azhikkal

* 156 Q.—SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR (on behalf of Sri K. P. Gopalan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government propose to improve the port of Azhikkal in Chirakkal taluk, North Malabar;

(*b*) if so, the improvements that would be carried out; and

(*c*) the total estimated expenditure sanctioned for them?